

Art Unit: 1723

Inventor: Hirose Application Number: 09/782,339 Date: 2/13/01

| Cl. # | Dep. on | Limitation | Tonelli 12/99 US 5,997,745 | JP10-305216 11/98 | Supporting References |
|-------|---------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | -- | Apparatus comprising | Yes | | |
| | | Plurality of modules in multistage | Fig 1 | Fig 1, 2 | |
| | | Each module with porous support and polyamide skin layer on it | 4(26-50) | Yes | |
| | | Includes one final and one pre-final stages | Fig 1 | Yes | |
| | | Portion of permeate from prefinal to final stage | Fig 1 | -- | |
| | | Rest prefinal permeate discharged with final stage perm | Fig 1 | -- | |
| 2 | 1 | Perm water from final and prefinal are mixed and discharged | 3(1-28) obvious | Do | |
| 3 | 1 | Ion conc of perm supplied to not supplied to final stage 1:2 to 1:10 | **, obvious, bray | -- | Bray 4,046,685 5(4-35), obvious |
| 4 | 1 | Perm water to final stage alkaline | Fig 1, 8(5-10) | -- | |
| 5 | 1 | The pH of the perm water to final stage is 8-12 | Do | -- | |
| 6 | 1 | Perm water to final stage is from conc end of one pre-final module supplying perm water to final module | Obvious | | Bray 4,046,685 5(4-35), obvious |
| 7 | 1 | Further comprising pr vessel | Obvious | | Bray 4,046,685 5(4-35) |
| | | Plurality of pre-final module | Fig 1 | | Do |
| | | Spiral wound modules | 4(26-50) | | Do |
| | | ...connected by water (perm) pipes | Obvious, bray | | Do |
| | | Contained on a pr vessel | Do | | Do |
| | | Raw and permeate water from one end | Do | | Do |
| | | Conc and perm from the other end | Do | | Do |
| | | Perm from other end fed to final stage | Do | | Bray 4,046,685 5(4-35), |

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|----|----|--|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | obvious |
| 8 | 7 | Water collecting pipe partitioned to make raw water side and perm water side perm separate | Do | | Bray 4,046,685 5(4-35) |
| 9 | 1 | Further comprising plurality of pr vessels in multi stage | Obvious | | Do |
| | | One 1st stage, and at least one after 1st stage | Fig 1 | | Do |
| | | Plurality of modules for at least one pre-final module | Fig 1 | | Do |
| | | Modules spiral wound on pipe | 4(26-50) | | Do |
| | | Prefinal modules connected by water pipes | | | Do |
| | | Plurality of pre-final modules in plurality of pr vessels | Obvious | | Do |
| | | 1st stage vessel with raw water | Fig 1 | | Do |
| | | At least one pr vessel subsequent to 1st stage supplied with conc from at least one preceding vessel | Fig 1 | Obvious with bray | Do |
| 10 | 9 | 3 pr vessels in 3 stages, | Fig 1 | Obvious with Tonnelly | |
| | | Per from 2 nd stage pr vessel and/or 3 rd stage pr vessel to final stage composite RO module | Fig 1 | Do | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |
| 11 | 1 | Pre-final module rej >99%, perm flux 0.2m ³ /m ² /day at 6.5 pH, 3.5% feed and at 25C and 5.5 Mpa (55atm = 800psi) | -- obvious, EP | Yes, ex Flux | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |
| 12 | 1 | 99.5%, 0.3 m ³ /m ² /day, rest as in 11 | --do | Yes, except flux | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |
| 13 | 1 | Boron rej 80% | --do | | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |
| 14 | 1 | Boron rej 90% | --do | | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |
| 15 | 1 | Salt 98% at 0.5m ³ /m ² /day at 0.05% feed, 25C, 6.5 pH, 0.75 Mpa (7.5 atm = 110 psi) | --do | Yes | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |
| 16 | 1 | 99%, 0.7m ³ /m ² /day, rest as in 15 | --do | Yes | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |
| 17 | 3 | Raw water TDS 1% | --do | Yes | |
| 18 | 17 | Sea water | --do | Yes | EP 1 136 116 |

RP/B



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|------|---|----------------------------------|------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| (19) | 3 | Raw = sea, per = /< 1 mg/L boron | --do | Obvious Tonelly | A1, 8/2000 |
| (20) | 1 | Polyamide skin has Br atoms | --do | yes | EP 1 136 116 A1, 8/2000 |

** contradicts the specification and examples. In spec and examples, the "supplied conc" is greater than the "not supplied conc". Reversing the ratios would meet the specification.